

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 were pending in the present Application. Claims 1, 18, and 20 have been amended, leaving Claims 1, 3-20 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

It is believed that the amendments made herein may be properly entered at this time, i.e., after final rejection, because the amendments do not require a new search or raise new issues and reduce issues for appeal. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. For example, support for the amendment to Claims 1, 18 and 20 can at least be found on page 46, lines 11-12 in the originally filed application.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a)

A. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 14, 16, 17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kawabata in view of Crivello. Applicants respectfully traverse.

B. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 14, 16, 17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohkuma in view of Crivello. Applicants respectfully traverse.

C. Claims 1, 3-9, 14, 16, 17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ohkuma in view of Crivello and further in view of Otaki. Applicants respectfully traverse.

D. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-14, and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dhar in view of Ohkuma, Crivello, Roth, and Hegel. Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants respectfully traverse.

E. Claims 1, 3-5, and 7- 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Dhar in view of Ohkuma, Crivello, Roth, Hegel and further in view of Horimai.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Amended Claims 1, 18 and 20 features a crosslinking agent a cross-linking agent which reacts with the reactive group in the binder compound at a temperature in the range of 40 to 150°C a reaction temperature. The range 40-150°C is significantly greater than room temperature.

As noted in the Office Action, Kawabata discloses a triphenylsulfonium hexafluorophosphonium compound as a cationic photopolymerization initiator. Crivello discloses both dialkylsulfonium compound sand a triphenylsulfonium compounds as cationic photopolymerization initiators. (see Crivello, Col.3, lines 34-39; lines 55-64). Ohkuma discloses a triphenylsulfonium compound as a cationic photopolymerization initiator. (see Ohkuma, Col. 12, lines 39-48; Col. 15, lines 44-46)

The Examiner considers the triarylsulfonium salts to have the same properties as the thermal cationic polymerization initiator as represented by Formula (1) of the present claim, which does not include triarylphosphonium salts. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Filed concurrently herewith is a Declaration submitted under 37 CFR §1.132. As provided therein, the prepared holographic recording layer forming compositions that contained the triarylsulfonium salt as disclosed by Crivello (see Col. 11, the second compound in the Table labeled "Sulfonium Salts") failed to solidify. As such, the use of the triarylsulfonium compounds of Crivello in the claimed composition would not necessarily provide any expectation of success and cannot be used for holographic recording. In other words, the triarylsulfonium compounds provided by Crivello are not cross-linking agents that function as a thermal cationic polymerization initiator at a temperature range of 40°C to 150°C.

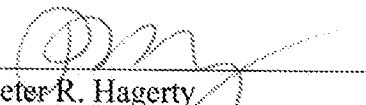
In addition, it is noted that a cross linking agent having a reaction temperature range as provided in the independent claims is not taught or suggested by any of the other above-cited references. Regarding the rejections under sections D and E above, Dhar teaches away from heating at relatively high temperatures. Thus, any combinations relying on Dhar are inherently deficient in view of this teaching away.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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